

Questionnaire sent to Users of NIS  
and  
Summary of Replies Received

The following questions were asked:

- a. How are you now making use of the NIS?
- b. Do you anticipate that the complete NIS maintained adequately up to date will be of further use to you? In what way?
- c. In the event of a critical situation or a general war would the immediate availability of the NIS be of great, moderate, or little value to you? Specify.
- d. Wherein does the scope and treatment of the NIS fall short of your basic intelligence needs?
- e. What are your recommendations for improving the NIS?

The following summarizes replies received:

Department of State

The Foreign Service was not enthusiastic. As a producer/consumer, (i.e., it produces the material used by OIR in Washington) the Foreign Service generally feels that it is as well or, usually, better informed than the NIS--and its information is more current. Foreign Service Posts, however, do use the NIS (a) as a background source, (b) to brief newly-arrived officers and, when appropriate, visitors, and (c) as a guide showing intelligence gaps which need filling. Completion and revision of more Sections would enhance the value and increase the above use of the NIS, there being no complaint about the concept of the NIS or its presentation. The consensus was that the advent of war or a critical situation would not change the value of the NIS to the Foreign Service.

Department of the Army

The commands (EUROCOM, USARPAC, etc.) were more enthusiastic about the NIS than were the Attaches, the Service Schools, or Headquarters. The Commands find the NIS useful for basic source material and as an encyclopedic reference for intelligence, consulting them in connection with briefings and for planning. Generally, the Commands regard the NIS as of great value in the event of war, but draw attention to incompleteness and out-of-date information. The Attaches' view is comparable to that of the Foreign Service. Their use of the NIS is

principally as an indication of intelligence gaps. Although Headquarters makes considerable and sometimes extensive use of NIS, it is generally found that they lack the information in depth required to meet the specialized needs of the consuming units. The Service Schools make general background use of the NIS, their chief complaint being that more frequent revisions are needed to bring data up-to-date.

#### Department of the Navy

The major components of the Navy (the Marine Corps, the Atlantic Fleet, the Pacific Fleet, etc.) generally find the NIS very useful for basic strategic intelligence and planning--the exceptions being smaller components such as the Marianas Command for which NIS Sections have not been written--and most feel that the NIS would be of great value in the event of war.

#### Department of the Air Force

The responses of the Air Force Commands, Attaches, Schools and Headquarters paralleled those of the Army.

#### Department of Defense

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense reported that the NIS are "helpful" to the International Security Affairs organization which deals with foreign aid, that their use in case of war would be "considerable." Like other headquarters views, the desirability of more detail and the obsolescence of data were mentioned. In particular, lack of East-West trade information was cited.

#### National Security Agency

The NIS were described as a most useful general reference source and as being in daily use. In case of war they were said to be "invaluable." The criticism was made that the NIS are not sufficiently current.

#### Operations Coordinating Board

The NIS were said to be used "from time to time" for factual data but it was felt they should be more complete and more frequently revised.

#### Department of the Interior

The Geographic Division, the Bureau of Mines, and the Fish and Wildlife Service replied to the questionnaire. The first uses only Chapter IX and finds it and the Preliminary Gazetteers useful. It is a producer/consumer. The second felt the NIS are limited by delays in publication and in revision. Also, that 80 percent of the mining data is a duplication of unclassified data published elsewhere. The last, which receives Section 61 only, finds the NIS material "exceedingly valuable."

Foreign Operations Administration

The MIS are consulted to some extent for background data but it was complained that they are not sufficiently current.

Department of Commerce

The Weather Bureau and the Census Bureau replied to the questionnaire. Neither was enthusiastic about the MIS, feeling coverage was frequently incomplete or inadequate.

Department of the Treasury

Only Chapter VI is received. It is found valuable as a source of reference material.